

## Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 /072 W

----- 076463

R 311155Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5875

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 6702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ACTIVITY AT WATTAY AIRPORT, VIENTIANE

REFS: A) BANGKOK 26967 (301045Z DEC 75), NOTAL

B) BANGKOK 26893 (291158Z DEC 75)

1. WE ARE AWARE OF NOT RPT NO SPECIFIC ACTIVITY AT WATTAY AIRPORT THAT WOULD INDICATE PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE MIG AIRCRAFT, NOR ARE WE CERTAIN WHAT PREPARATIONS WOULD BE REQUIRED. BELIEVE AIRFIELDS AT SAVANNAKHET AND SENO COULD THEORETICALLY ACCOMMODATE MIGS AS WELL.

2. WE HAVE HEARD , HOWEVER, FROM TWO-LEVEL SOURCES THAT A NUMBER OF LAO PILOTS WHO WERE SENT TO SOVIET UNION TO LEARN TO FLY MIGS HAVE LATELY RETURNED TO LAOS. A DAO SOURCE SAYS THIS INFORMATION WAS CONVEYED TO ORDINARY LAO CITIZENS AT A "SEMINAR" IN EARLY DECEMBER. THE OTHER SOURCE, OF UNKNOWN RELIABILITY, TOLD AN AMERICAN RESIDENT OF VIENTIANE THAT HE WITNESSED THE RETURN TO VIENTIANE BY AEROFLOT IN EARLY DECEMBER OF A LAO PILOT WITH WHOM HE HAD ATTENDED SCHOOL

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YEARS EARLIER. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, HIS OD SCHOOL-

MATE WAS ONE OF 15 LAO PILOTS WHO WENT TO THE SOVIET UNION CIRCA 1972 AND ONE OF SEVEN WHO RETURNED TOGETHER AND WERE BILLETED AT THE COMPOUND FORMERLY OWNED BY CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICES, INC., NEAR WATTAY AIRPORT. SOURCE SURMISED THAT THE OTHER EIGHT LAO PILOTS WERE STILL IN THE U.S.S.R. FINALLY, SOURCE STATED--SOMEWHAT IMPLAUSIBLY, WE THINK-- THAT THE LAO PILOTS WERE CROSS-TRAINED AS MECHANICS SO THAT THEY COULD MAINTAIN THEIR OWN AIRCRAFT.

3. WE DO NOT PUT MUCH STOCK IN FOREGOING REPORTS, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY BETTER EVIDENCE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THAI EMBASSY OR MILITARY ATTACHE HAD HEARD SOMETHING SIMILAR AND REPORTED IT TO BANGKOK.

4. DATT IS OUT OF COUNTRY AT THE MOMENT. WE MAY HAVE FURTHER OBSERVATIONS WHEN HE RETURNS.

5. WE WOULD COMMENT THAT WATTAY AIRPORT IS WITHIN EASY ARTILLERY RANGE OF THAI TERRITORY AND COULD QUICKLY BE PUT OUT OF OPERATION SHOULD THE THAI NEED TO DO SO. WE JUDGE THAT HOSTILE AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM THERE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE LEAST OF THAI SECURITY CONCERNS AT PRESENT TIME.  
CORCORAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PILOT TRAINING, JET AIRCRAFT, AIRPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** ALLEGED ACTIVITY AT WATTAY AIRPORT, VIENTIANE  
**TAGS:** MASS, PFOR, TH, LA, UR  
**To:** BANGKOK  
**Type:** TE  
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